



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

MAY 18, 2025
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Love One Another

James J. Chepponis

WELCOME

Pastor Denise Clark-Jones

INTROIT

Shall All Be Made Alive

Douglas E. Wagner

Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory.
Thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ.
For as in Adam, all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive!

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come to praise God, all you faithful people!

Come, for God welcomes you and offers to draw close.

Praise to God, who rules over all the earth.

Praise to God, who is as near as our next breath.

Sun and moon and stars shine in praise to God.

God created them and established for each a place.

God has a place for us in this world;

we have come that God may instruct and equip us.

Mountains and hills, trees and animals praise God.

Let all the rulers of the earth do so as well.

God provides abundantly for our needs.

God makes of one family all who dwell on earth.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

We praise you, O God, and celebrate your presence with us.

Your glory fills all heaven and earth, all time and space.

Your gifts surround us and dwell within us.

We are your children.

Come to wipe away our tears and comfort us in our distress.

Come to heal our divisions and overcome our prejudices.

Come, that we might be loved into discipleship.


Amen.

* HYMN #301

Let Us Build a House


TWO OAKS

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
C7 F C F B^b C Dm



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
F C F Dm7 Gm C



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

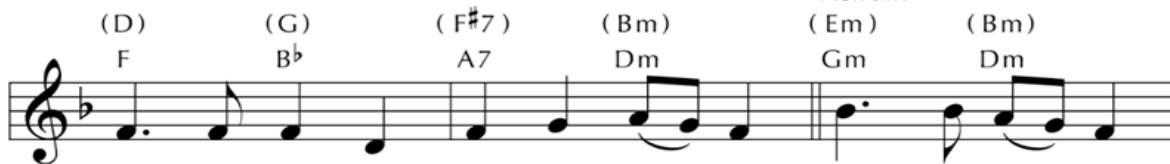


how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

Refrain



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Dorothy Baunach

The God revealed to us in the pages of Scripture
is a welcoming and inclusive God who directs us to love one another.
So we gather to seek removal of all barriers to that love.
Come and confess all that separates you from others and from your own best.
Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
followed by time for silent personal confession.
Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We admit, holy God,
that we find it hard to hear your promise of new life.
Even when we are dissatisfied with our lives,
it is easier to cling to what we know than to risk the unknown.
You challenge us to accept people who are different from us,
but we are not eager to associate with them.
You command us to love one another,
but some people are not lovable.
O God, melt our defenses
so we can accept your love and let it flow through us.
Grant us courage to embrace newness.**

(moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE ELEISON

John Merbecke

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God promises to dwell with us,
to ease our pain and wipe tears from our eyes.
Dare to trust, for God accepts us as we are,
that we might become all we are meant to be.
God grants us the opportunity to repent.
It is a gift that leads to new life.
Accept God's offer of new life in Christ.

Alleluia and Amen!

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.
Let us offer a sign of peace to one another.

* GLORIA #581

Glory Be to the Father

GREATOREX

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, Amen.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.

God has called us to a ministry of service: water for the thirsty,
comfort to those who grieve, healing for ones in pain,
acceptance for persons who have not accepted themselves.
This is the time to offer our time and strength as well as money,
that God's will may be realized among us.
The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come* Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.
Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord!
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell there-in, rejoice on earth,
Ye saints below, for Christ is coming, is coming soon.
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all!

* DOXOLOGY #609 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow*
LASST UNS ERFREUEN
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia!

* OFFERTORY PRAYER Dororthy Baunach

Let us join our voices in prayer:

Thank you, gracious God,
for making your home with us and claiming us as your own people.
We dedicate ourselves and our gifts
toward the new world you are creating among us,
a world where peace emerges
from mutual respect and honest encounters.
May your love be reflected in our attitudes and actions
when we are together and when we are scattered.
Amen.

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE *All Things Come of Thee* Herbert C. Peabody
All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**O God of promise,
your word made flesh in Jesus Christ
is trustworthy and true.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
may it rise up in us this day like a gift
from the spring of the water of life
to refresh our thirsty souls. Amen.**

THE READINGS

Epistle

Acts 11:1-18 (Inclusive Bible)

The apostles and the community in Judea heard that Gentiles, too, had accepted the word of God. As a result, when Peter went up to Jerusalem, some of the Jewish believers took issue with him. "So you have been visiting the Gentiles and eating with them, have you?" they said.

Peter then told the whole affair to them step by step from the beginning: "One day when I was in the town of Joppa, I fell into a trance while at prayer and had a vision of something like a big sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners.

This sheet came quite close to me. I watched it intently and saw in it all sorts of animals and wild beasts—everything possible that could walk, crawl or fly.

Then I heard a voice that said to me, 'Now, Peter, make your sacrifice and eat.'

I replied, 'I can't, my God. Nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth!' And a second time the voice spoke from heaven, 'Don't call profane what God has made clean.' This happened three times; then the sheet was drawn up to heaven again. Just at that moment three couriers stopped outside the house where we were staying; they had been sent from Caesarea to fetch me, and the Spirit told me to have no hesitation about returning with them.

These six believers came with me as well, and we entered Cornelius' house.

He told us he had seen an angel standing in the house who had said, 'Send messengers to Joppa and bring back Simon, known as Peter; he has a message for you that will save you and your entire household.' I had hardly begun to speak when the Holy Spirit came down on them in the same way she came on us in the beginning, and I remembered what Christ had said:

'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

I realized then that God was giving them the same gift that had been given to us when we came to believe in our Savior Jesus Christ. And who am I to stand in God's way?" This account satisfied them, and they gave glory to God, saying, "God has granted the repentance that leads to life—even to Gentiles!"

The Holy Spirit has a word for each of us today.

With God's help we are listening.

Gospel

John 13:31-35 (Inclusive Bible)

Once Judas left, Jesus said,
“Now is the Chosen One glorified, and God is glorified as well.
If God has been glorified, God will in turn glorify the Chosen One and will do so very soon. My little children, I won’t be with you much longer.
You’ll look for me, but what I said to the Temple authorities, I say to you:
where I am going, you cannot come.
I give you a new commandment: Love one another.
And you’re to love one another the way I have loved you.
This is how all will know that you’re my disciples; that you truly love one another.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Denise Clark-Jones

“Christ’s Redeeming Love”



NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF CANDLES, PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

We ask all these things in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray...

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;
 find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

This text and this tune occur in almost all English-language hymnals (though not always together). The transforming power of love motivates the unending praise of the life to come, and this fine Welsh tune (whose name means "delightful") gives us a foretaste of endless song.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

We go out as disciples of Jesus Christ.
The world will recognize you by your love.

Love has created us and makes us whole.

We grow in love when we share love.

Praise God whose abundant mercies meet our needs.
Commune daily with the one who heads our family.

When we know God's presence, we are unafraid.

Newness is welcomed as God's gift to us.

God is Alpha and Omega, beginning and end.
God refreshes us daily with the gift of living water.

We have been baptized with water and the Holy Spirit.

We are ambassadors of love to all we meet.

May the blessing of God, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you.
May the God who has made you a new creation
give you the grace to grow in faith, hope, love. Amen.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

John Rutter

POSTLUDE

Postlude on "Old Hundredth"

Fred Brock

*"My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."*

Psalm 73:26



We continue to keep in our prayers:

Bob Baus and family, Renita and the Jackson family, Ken Topar, Gerald Wright,
JoAnn Hood, Mary Jane Sykora, Fred Heider, Judy and Frank Macuga,
Debbie McLaughlin, Harry Hatters, Annie and Tony Carlos, Nichole and Paul Bellantoni,
Timothy Truitt, Paolo, Donna Sue Buchanan, Shelley Wheeler,
Prisicella Fayne, Ronald Richard

We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, homebound or in need.

Names are generally removed after four weeks unless there is a continuing need.



Please join us for Communion following the service this morning in the Chapel.

Wednesdays at 12:15 PM please join us in the Sanctuary for a Mid-Week Communion Service.

@ Old Stone Church

Sunday May 18/Easter V/Marathon Sunday

All Day Cleveland Marathon

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

Tuesday May 20

7:00PM Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM

Wednesday May 21

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Sunday May 25/Easter VI

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

Monday May 26/Memorial Day

All Day Building and Offices Closed

Tuesday May 27

7:00PM Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM

Wednesday May 28

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Sunday June 1/Easter VII

10:00AM Worship with Communion/Sanctuary

1:40PM Guardians/Angels/Progressive Field

Tuesday June 3

7:00PM Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM

Wednesday June 4

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Saturday June 7

9AM-12PM Open Doors/Sanctuary

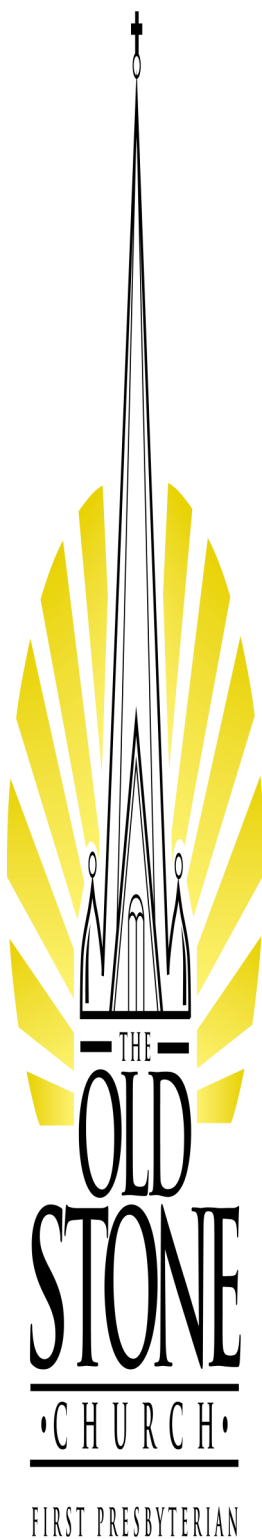
10:00AM Pride in Cle Parade

Sunday June 8/Pentecost

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

11:30AM Mission and Urban Wellness Committee Meeting/
Cuyahoga Room/Second Floor



There are many ways to support The Old Stone Church-The First Presbyterian Church of Cleveland

Online Giving:

oldstonechurch.org/giving/

Mobile Giving:

Text the keyword “oldstonecle” to 73256

Mail to:

Old Stone Church
Attn: Financial Office
91 Public Square
Cleveland, OH 44113

Scan the QR Code with your phone.



Checks should be made payable to “Old Stone Church.”

All contributions are tax-deductible and will be appropriately acknowledged at year-end.

THE OLD STONE CHURCH

LOVING CHRIST, SERVING CITY—SPIRITUALLY, SOCIALLY, CULTURALLY—SINCE 1820

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Website: www.OldStoneChurch.org **E-Mail:** info@OldStoneChurch.org

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Senior Pastor: Rev. Stephen C. Blonder Adams

Parish Associate: Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

Minister of Music: David L. Dettloff

The Old Stone Singers

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Cicely Schonberg, *soprano*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Ian Atwood, *tenor*

Stephen Brown, *tenor*

Noah Whitaker, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

Reese Henrick, *alto*

Elizabeth Rickel, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Christopher Clark, *bass*

Albert Donze, *bass*

Church Elders:

Clerk of Session: Beth Buchanan

Class of 2025

Dorothy Baunach

Willie Brown

David Eifert

Dave Finley

Robert Hubert Jr.

Class of 2026

Beth Buchanan

Judy Macuga

Melissa Maffia

Harriet Niles

Marty Vassel

Class of 2027

Michelle Baron

Fred Heider

Bernard Medie

Bob Reid

Church Deacons:

Class of 2025

Valorie Hempstead

Eileen Kelly

Elie Medie

Mark Pichler

Class of 2026

Mark Corey

Forrest Diehl

Pam Daly

Ruth Finley

Alyssa Niepokny

Charlene Thornton

Class of 2027

Anand Bandari

Eric Grattan

Sunny Kunche

Lori Lippert

Amy Wheeler

John Wheeler

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Your entry constitutes your consent to such photography, filming, livestreaming, and/or recording and to any use, in any media for The Old Stone Church/First Presbyterian Church, Cleveland, Ohio. Thank you.